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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 12 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the Ouagadougou Declaration on the implementation of the international counter-terrorism instruments.

The Declaration was adopted at the conclusion of the Fourth Conference of Ministers of Justice of the French-speaking African Countries, which was held from 20 to 22 March 2007 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Organized jointly by the Government of Burkina Faso and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Ouagadougou Conference was intended to offer the Ministers of Justice of the French-speaking African countries an opportunity to assess the progress made by their countries in ratifying and implementing the international legal instruments in the area of counter-terrorism, including the submission of their national reports to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities.

On completing its work, the Conference adopted a series of recommendations and the enclosed Declaration, and recommended that the latter should be brought to the attention of the Member States of the United Nations and issued as an official document of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

I should therefore be grateful if you would bring the Declaration to the attention of the Member States and have it issued as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Michel **Kafando**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Fourth Conference of Ministers of Justice of the French-speaking African Countries on the implementation of the international counter-terrorism instruments

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
20-22 March 2007

Ouagadougou Declaration

On 22 March 2007,

We, the Ministers of Justice and Heads of Delegation of the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia,

Gathered together at the Fourth Conference of Ministers of Justice of the French-speaking African Countries on the ratification and implementation of the universal counter-terrorism instruments, held from 20 to 22 March 2007 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso,

And in the presence of the United Nations, represented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities (hereinafter the "1267 Committee"), as well as the following international and regional organizations: The Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States, Interpol, the League of Arab States, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the African Union, represented by the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, and the European Union,

Strongly reiterating the condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly on 4 December 2006 of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the related plan of action (A/RES/60/288),

Recognizing that international cooperation is essential for preventing and combating terrorism in accordance with the obligations imposed by international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant international

conventions and protocols, especially those instruments relating to human rights, the rights of refugees and international humanitarian law,

Noting with satisfaction the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/40 of 4 December 2006, which "requests the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna to continue its efforts to enhance, through its mandate, the capabilities of the United Nations in the prevention of terrorism, and recognizes, in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), its role in assisting States in becoming parties to and implementing the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, including the most recent among them, and in strengthening international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through national capacity-building",

Welcoming the role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate as a facilitator of technical assistance and the role of the 1267 Committee in combating threats to international peace and security so that the French-speaking African countries can comply with their obligations arising from the universal counter-terrorism instruments,

Noting the progress attained in the elaboration of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 and the Working Group established by the Sixth Committee during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, and welcoming continuing efforts to that end,

Welcoming also the issuance of the Cairo Declaration, the Port Louis Declaration and the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration, adopted on 4 September 2003, 27 October 2004 and 9 February 2006, respectively, during the Conferences of Ministers of Justice of the French-speaking African Countries on the ratification and implementation of the universal counter-terrorism instruments, as documents A/C.3/58/4, A/59/811 and A/60/845 of the United Nations General Assembly,

1. Warmly congratulate the French-speaking African countries which, since the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration, have ratified universal counter-terrorism instruments and submitted their reports on the implementation of the measures set out in Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1735 (2006) concerning the sanctions regime against Al-Qaida and the Taliban to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the 1267 Committee;

2. Recommend that the French-speaking African countries which are not yet parties to the universal counter-terrorism instruments should ratify or accede to them as soon as possible;

3. Call on all the French-speaking African countries to implement, without delay, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in all its aspects at the international, regional, subregional and national levels, including through the mobilization of resources and expertise;

4. Call on the French-speaking African countries to adopt the necessary legislative and regulatory measures, including the establishment of inter-ministerial coordination committees, for the effective implementation of the universal counter-terrorism instruments and the Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism,

with a view to combating terrorism and strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters in this field;

5. Encourage the French-speaking African countries to submit their reports on the implementation of the measures set out in Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1735 (2006) concerning the sanctions regime against Al-Qaida and the Taliban to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the 1267 Committee; and invite the countries that have not yet submitted their reports to attend the subregional workshops on the preparation of those reports that will be organized jointly by those Committees and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2007;

6. Request the United Nations Secretary-General's Task Force to provide the French-speaking African countries, in an integrated and concerted manner, with the technical assistance they require to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

7. Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the International Organization of la Francophonie and other competent international, regional and subregional organizations, to continue to provide the French-speaking African countries with the technical assistance required for the ratification and implementation, at the legislative level, of the universal counter-terrorism instruments and for the training of criminal justice officials in international cooperation in criminal matters related to counter-terrorism;

8. Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the 1267 Committee, to continue providing the French-speaking African countries with the technical assistance required to draft their reports through, inter alia, the holding of subregional workshops in 2007;

9. Urge the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to pursue its cooperation with the International Organization of la Francophonie, within the framework of the Bamako Declaration of November 2000 and the Saint Boniface Declaration of May 2006, and to continue to work with the International Organization of la Francophonie to develop technical assistance tools, including model legislation, legislative guides and training manuals for criminal justice officials;

10. Plan to elaborate, on the basis of model United Nations treaties, a draft international instrument on extradition and mutual legal assistance for the French-speaking African countries; and request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Organization of la Francophonie to provide all the necessary technical assistance to that end;

11. Invite the French-speaking African countries to conduct an annual review of the progress made in the ratification, accession to and rapid implementation of the universal counter-terrorism instruments and to submit their reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the 1267 Committee within the required deadlines;

12. Demand that all the necessary attention should be devoted to conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism;

13. Take note of and express our appreciation for the offer made by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Justice of the French-speaking African Countries;

14. Invite the President of the Conference to bring this Declaration to the attention of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

15. Express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Burkina Faso for having hosted and jointly organized, in Ouagadougou, on 20 to 22 March 2007, the Fourth Conference of Ministers of Justice of the French-speaking African Countries on the implementation of the universal counter-terrorism instruments, as well as to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Organization of la Francophonie for having jointly organized the Conference.